花とゆめCOMICS

目隠しの国

筑波さくら 8

花とゆめ COMICS

目隠しの国〔8〕
筑波さくら

白泉社

●筑波さくらの本
―花とゆめコミックス―
目隠しの国 ①～⑧

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作品かいせつ

温泉旅行も無事に終了。ツキがあるのか無いのか、微妙な日々を過ごす並木だが――。一方、〝力〟の事実が親友エリに優しく受け入れられ、ほっとしたかなで。それも束の間、火事を見つけたかなでは現場へ…。この騒ぎの中、あろうのとったある行動をエリが目撃してしまい!?

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

触れた人の未来が見えるかなでと並木。逆に過去が見えるあろう。旅行中、かなでの〝力〟の事実を知り優しく受けとめたエリだったが、ある時あろうの行動を目撃して…!? 過去と未来のシークレットロマンス、注目の第8巻！

■LaLa掲載■

白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

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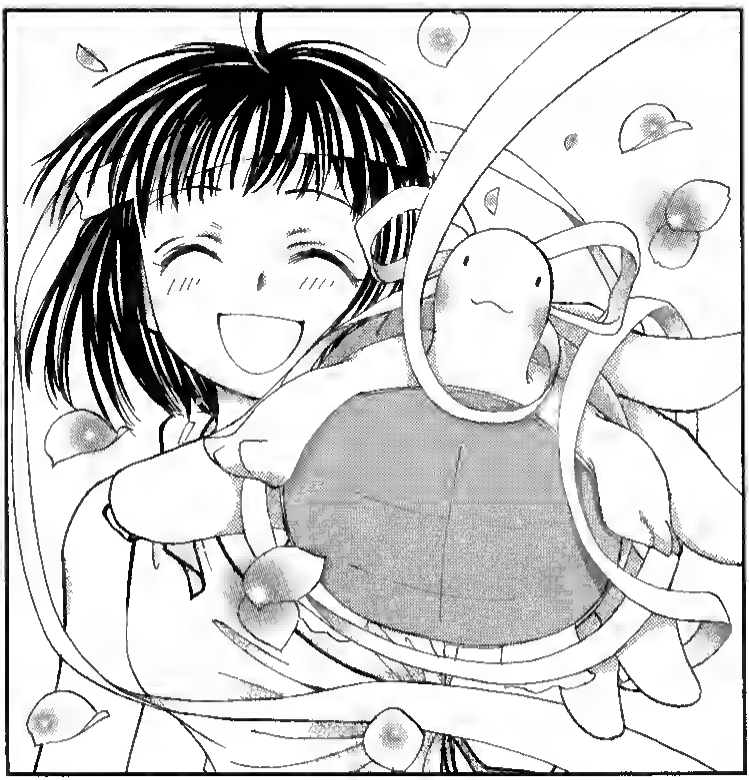
第8巻

筑波さくら



この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

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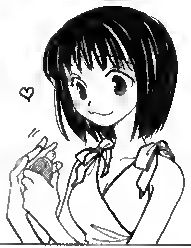
目隠しの国

第31話

Hi everyone. I'm Tsukaba Sakura. Mekakushi No Kuni is already at volume 8! To be able to get this far, I owe everyone a heartfelt gratitude. Tsukara is really fortunate and wishes to thank everyone for their support and admiration. I love you guys! —So, let's get to the start of volume 8 now!



1/4 Sakura's Personal Letter Part1

WERE THE HOT SPRINGS FUN?
shake
shake
OH... YOU'RE BACK?
SLEEP LIKE THAT IF YOU WANT
The master is back and yet not a whiskey to *ew sched
TO SLEEP IN SUCH A STATE?
squish
squish
HUH
YOU CAN CONTINUE SLEEPING IF YOU WANT TO!
It's fine
shake
shake
shake
.....

Snore
I FEEL SO TIRED ALL OF A SUDDEN
COLLAPSE
I HAD PLANNED TO
WOBBLE
TOGETHER WITH KANADE,
GO TO THE HOT SPRINGS TO SOAK AWAY OUR FATIGUES
Purely a wish with no other intentions
Wave
Wave
Imagination
shock
drift
ON A HOT SPRING TOUR WITH KANADE
FORGET IT I'M NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT IT
I shall go dream about Kanade
♡
snuggle
SOME WEIRD STUFF...
...THAT'S RIGHT ON THE JOURNEY BACK HOME, THEY SAID
UNCLE SOU
THANK YOU.

UNCLE SOU YOU BROUGHT US TO THE HOT SPRINGS HERE
HRM.
EH? THANKS FOR WHAT? AROU
FOR THE PURPOSE OF...
LETTING ME SEE MY MOM AGAIN, WASN'T IT?
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SAW HER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH UNCLE SOU!
YEAH!
IS THAT SO...
...WAS SANAE SMILING?

IS THAT SO!
BUT AROU,
turn
...
YOU STILL DIDN'T MANAGE TO RECALL,
THE CIRCUM-STANCES OF SANAE'S DEATH.

HEY!
AROU, THE LUGGAGE IS IN THE CAR ALREADY!
LET'S GO BACK ...
Dear god!
OKAY!
I didn't want to dream of this. I wanted to dream of Kanade!
.....
...HUH?
Chin
Chin
Chin
IS MORNING ALREADY!?
...BUT ...

CLATTER
Bird
WHY ISN'T THERE ANY WEIGHT...
...HEY!
Creak
HEY.. STUPID DOG!
HM, WHERE ARE YOU GUYS...
Squeak
MAROTA? TURTLE?
HELLO!
GETTING UP AT THIS HOUR,
YOU'RE UP, HUH?
YOU'LL BE IN A RUSH FOR TIME...

Tsukuba Sakura's Personal Letter Part2

OOTAKE YUUSUKE

He's holding a MG 42 gun. I've always had the idea that the newest model of the gun is the one held by Arnold Schwarzenegger in the movie Terminator. So I've drawn it in a more dated manner to give off an in the near future vibe. It looks set to radiate with light anytime! When I sketched Ootake Yuusuke, the image of Elephant Kashimashi kept surfacing in my mind! Keep it up Yuusuke! Your surroundings are gonna be filled with love! I think.

Why didn't you wake me up sooner...!

OH...

THANKS

NO PROBLEM! SINCE YOU ARE A STUDENT,

HURRY UP AND MOVE YOUR BUTT TO SCHOOL!

Wake

Wake

I'LL BE TERRIBLY LATE FOR SCHOOL

I STILL NEED TO FEED THE PETS...

Wobble

OH, I'VE ALREADY DONE THAT.

27

Butsu-metsu*

AH...

*A DAY OF MISFORTUNE,

HUH?

STRANGE, WHEN DID THEY DEVELOP SUCH A GOOD RELATIONSHIP?

WELL IT DOESN'T MATTER SINCE I DON'T BELIEVE IN IT ANYWAY...

So it's Butsu-metsu

TODAY...

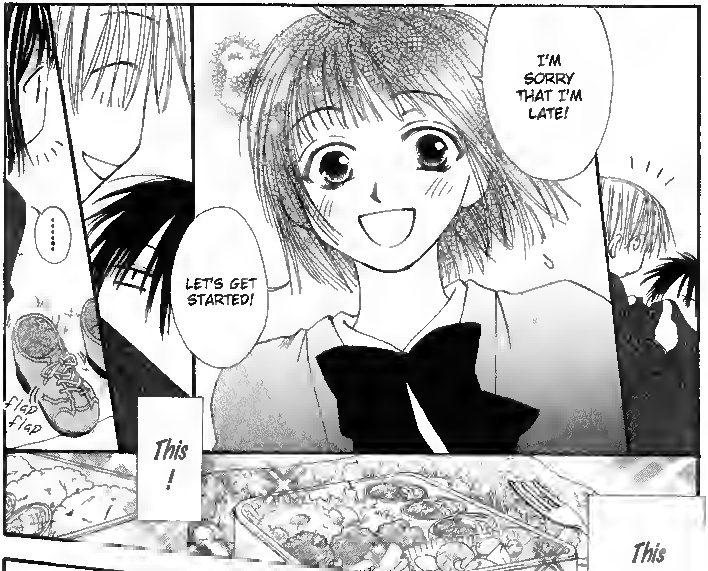
.....
Ha
Ha
Ha
Wa
ha
THEN, I'M OFF TO SCHOOL...
.....
flap
flap
flap
SUCH FAIR WEATHER TODAY...
WAH...
SN
Ap
Rustle
THIS PAIR OF SHOES,
HAVE BEEN QUITE WORNED OUT FOR A WHILE NOW
To te te te te

.....
Meeow!
Caw
Caw
Caw
Come Come!
HISS
.....
Sorry!
We're in a hurry!
.....
BU
MP
AH!
DEPRESSED
A LITTLE UPSET
.....
Wobble

That's right!
I'll go look for Kanade!
If I see Kanade, then...
Kou
Kill
For some reason, today seems to be kind of weird.
SFx: Don
HI
KO
WHERE'S KANADE?
SHE'S BEEN ABDUCTED BY ERI
She will be right back
?

HEY, NAMIKI.
WHAT?
SIP SIP
ANY THOUGHTS OF DROPPING BY YOUR FAMILY?
EH? WHY DO YOU ASK?
...JUST OUT OF CURIOUSITY—
YOU STILL DIDN'T MANAGE TO RECALL
AH ... IS IT BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS SAID BACK THEN?
ABOUT HIS MOM'S MATTERS?
YOU...
IN ANY CASE,
HAVE YOU ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT?

AH!
SEE! YOU REALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT!
FORGOT-TEN ABOUT WHAT...?


I'M SORRY THAT I'M LATE!
LET'S GET STARTED!
.....
flap flap
This !

This is it!
OH, NAMIKI-SAN?
YES?
As soon as I see Kanade's smile, I...

HUH?
THERE'S A HOME ECONOMICS CLASS TOMORROW AND I NEED TO GET SOME INGREDIENTS.
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
CAN YOU GO HOME BY YOURSELF FOR TODAY?
IT'S TOTALLY FINE!
AROLI WILL BE ACCOMPANYING ME!
WHAT'S THIS? WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I CAN'T TAG ALONG...

What about black currants?
Raisins are too common

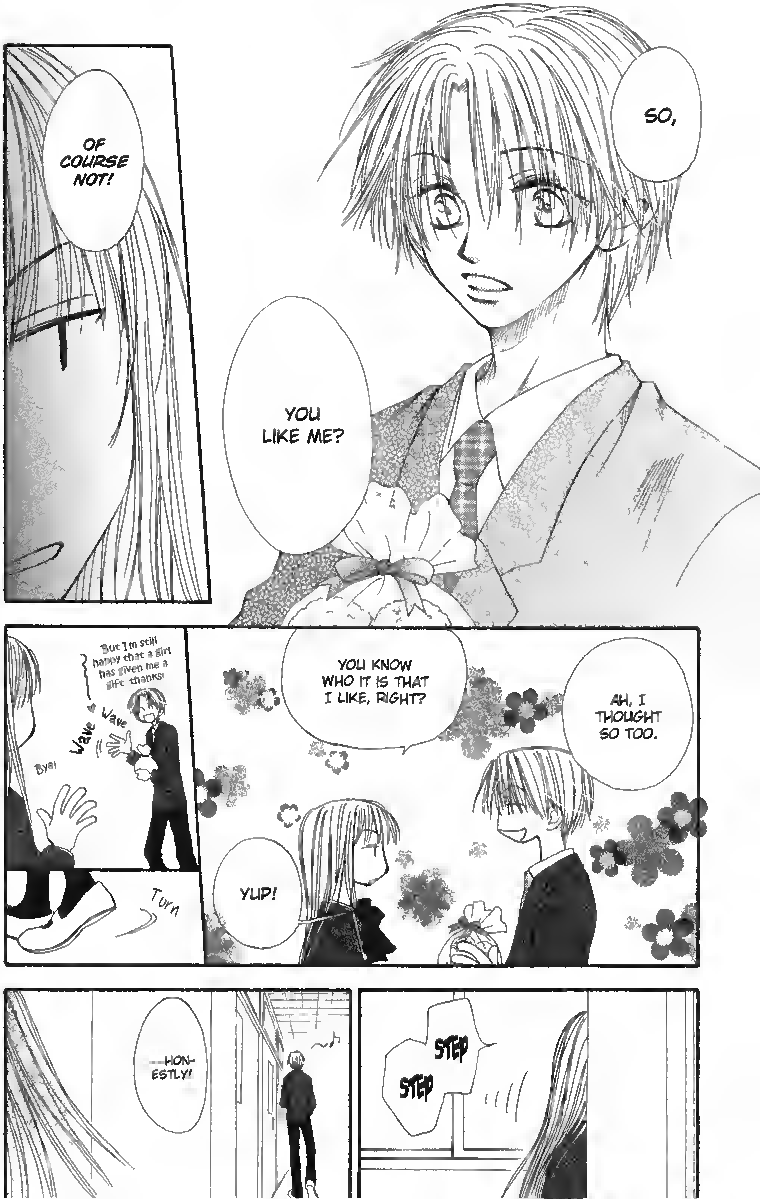
I'M SO BORED
Too much time on my hands...
Tobo
Tobo
LET'S GO CATCH A MOVIE THEN!
ONE STUDENT MOVIE TICKET
EH?
CAN I SEE YOUR STUDENT PASS?
Rustle
Rustle
Rustle
HUH? I CAN'T FIND IT!
I'M SORRY I DON'T HAVE IT WITH ME...
THEN PLEASE PAY THE FULL FARE
ALL RIGHT...
IT MUST'VE DROPPED OUT WHEN I GOT BUMPED INTO AT SCHOOL!
TODAY'S BEEN A REAL UNLUCKY DAY FOR ME
Crunch
WHAT A BORING MOVIE!

I CAN'T CRY OUT LOUD EVEN IF I WANT TO!
STAND
Shake
Shake
.....
Z
COLLAPSE
Snore
.....
Z Z Z
Z Z
mmm
mmm
...IT'S DAWN!
I SHOULD GET UP QUICKLY...
HEAVY...?
BUT MY BODY FEELS SO HEAVY..

.....
Shake
Shake
Shake
ah! Whoa?
がば!
ばう!
SFx: GABA
waking up like this is still a little...
Whoa?
.....
Though it's usually always like this
I'LL GET GOING TODAY
—YOU ARE STILL AROUND?
EAT UP, OTHERWISE YOU'LL BE LATE
HEY, MASA-HIRO!
HAVE YOUR BREAKFAST BEFORE YOU GO!
IS THIS GOOD OR IS IT BAD ?
What an extravagant fellow!
A GUY WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES DOG FOOD IN HIS FRIDGE IS NOT FIT TO CRITICIZE ME

Be careful on your way~
TO THINK I'M BEING SENT OFF BY THEM...
HUH?
AH!
IT'S THE CAT FROM YESTERDAY!
HOW DID IT GET INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD!
Hey! That's dangerous!
Sorry about this!
MORON
HEY, BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME!
Toss
LAND
GRAB

kon
kaan
kon
kun
NAMIKI-SAN!
I MANAGED TO TOUCH HIM TODAY
OH, PRESIDENT, WHAT'S UP?
I THOUGHT OF PASSING YOU YOUR STUDENT PASS SINCE I BUMPED INTO YOU
Someone picked it up and brought it to the student council.
OH THANKS
ONE MORE THING
Ha... So happy
I DID IT DURING CLASS
ORIGINALLY I THOUGHT OF IMPROVING IT FURTHER BEFORE PRESENTING IT TO YOU BUT
SINCE SOMEONE PICKED UP YOUR PASS TODAY...
Geez, it's so embarrassing now...
OH...
TA-DA,
A GIFT!


OF COURSE NOT!
SO,
YOU LIKE ME?
But I'm still happy that a girl has given me a life change!
Wave
Wave
Bye!
Turn
YOU KNOW WHO IT IS THAT I LIKE, RIGHT?
AH, I THOUGHT SO TOO.
YUP!
HON-ESTLY!
STEP
STEP

SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!
THAT GUY!
.....
— TO SEEK HIM OUT IN SCHOOL, SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T COME BACK AT ALL AFTER THAT TIME,
AND I ALSO DON'T HAVE HIS ADDRESS
HEY, NAMIKI-SAN'S HERE!
WAH, DON'T PUSH ME!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE IN THEIR POSITIONS —

SFx: PANPAPAAN
パパパーン
HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
NAMIKI-SAN!
Caw
Caw
Caw
HUH?

28TH OCTOBER
.....
WHAT IS THE DATE TODAY?
...OH!
WHAT 'HUH'? TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY!
Please take a seat!
.....
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT IT!
NAMIKI-SAN'S BIRTHDAY FALLS ON A DAY OF FORTUNE AND PEACE!
28
大安
IT'S SO FORTUNATE THAT...

What?
EH... IN OTHER WORDS, IT MEANS THAT...
IS USUALLY FOLLOWED BY THE LUCKY DAY TAIAN!
THOUGH THE UNLUCKY DAY BUTSUMETSU.
DAWN ALWAYS APPEAR AFTER THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT.
Hurry up and blow out the candles!
We made the cake our selves!
IN THIS WORLD...
FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE ARE INTERTWINED. THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE SCHEME OF THINGS ♡
Masahiro's birthday party!!
What?
Let's prepare
MISFORTUNE HALVED,
FUU
This is for you!
I tried so hard on my own to forget about it
Here's your present!
I forgot about my own birthday

I didn't want to see Mom and Dad's forced smiles.
Because birthday celebrations were painful.
It continued like that for a couple of years.
As result, I started to avoid celebrating birthdays with my family.
TUTOR CLASS WILL RELEASE STUDENTS LATER TODAY
I'M CELEBRATING WITH MY FRIENDS THIS YEAR
Without the birthday celebration, it became easier to get through the day.
A lot of times, I could almost see Dad's and Mom's inaudible sigh of relief
I SEE ...
SIGH

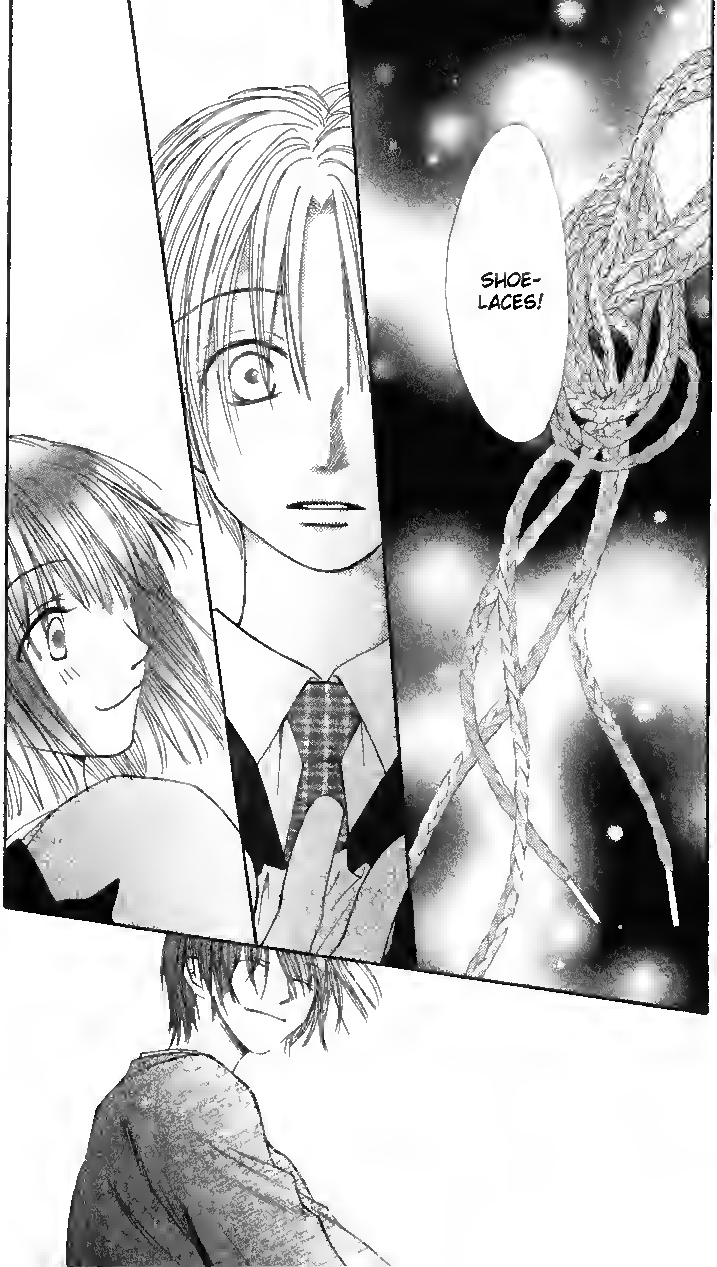
It was best like that.
I also felt that,
I really did forget,
After forgetting about it,
Even so, it was still painful,
But why...
The pain lessened considerably.
So I tried to forget about it, even the date of my birthday.
A present!
HUH?
Why
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GOING ON HERE?

MY SIS TOLD ME JUST NOW,
Sorry I didn't have time to prepare anything special
SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT SEEING AND NOT SEEING THE STUDENT PASS...
AH I FORGOT TO GIVE HIM MY BIRTHDAY WISHES JUST NOW
KANADE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME
KANADE HAS ACTUALLY BEEN BUSY PREPARING FOR IT SINCE YESTERDAY...
THOUGH THE CAKE TURNED OUT A BIT UGLY
HOPE YOU LIKE IT!
KANADE, YOU TOLD ME TO RETURN HOME EARLY YESTERDAY
WAS IT BECAUSE OF THIS?

THAT TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.
AROU'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME,
NAH... I ONLY THOUGHT OF THIS NOW
HAHAHA, I STILL GOT FOUND OUT IN THE END, HUH?
BECAUSE THE COLORS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL...
The big presents is stuff for dogs
AH, THIS IS A GIFT ON TOP OF YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AS HIS BROTHER TO DO THIS NOW SEEMS RATHER EMBARRASSING...
Help yourself!
Hey!? Celebrating a birthday!?
Let us join in!
.....
Wara
Wara

THEY'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN.
YAMA
DONCHAN
IT'S SO TOUGH TO GO OVER
That guy is such a moron!
If he had not mentioned it, I would have just forgotten about it. Anyway...
He must've seen my past to know my birthday date.
There was no need...
to act kindly and tell everyone ..
NO, NO! THAT WON'T DO!
Rustle Rustle
KANADE, WHAT IS THIS EXTRA GIFT ALL ABOUT?
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I WAS ALMOST FEELING TOUCHED
GASP


SHOE-
LACES!

Let's bounce
I want one too!
WOOSH
Pant
Pant
Pant
Hey you
I'LL JOIN IN!
WHAT-EVER!

Never mind,
To spend it like today is not too bad either!
We seem to be eating a lot of cake today
Come eat some cake!
PAKACHIKI
DONGHIKI
Cav
Cav
Tomorrow is a Shakku day
Mmm
Mmm
TO CONTINUE SLEEPING ISN'T TOO GOOD, RIGHT?
It's going to be noon already!
In the end this fellow still sticks around
It's luckier to get moving only from noon onwards.

めかくしのくに

目隠しの国

第32話

Since it just so happened to be winter when this chapter was serialized, I drew a very wintry title page to go with it. Even though I prefer colored pages because I had not been drawing very smoothly I wasn't able to convey the ideas in my mind completely. Even though the characters, the layers and the backgrounds were all in color, but because I was too nervous when I was trying to color in the branches, I couldn't fully present the feelings evoked by the dark shadows...
<To be continued>

Sakura's personal letter

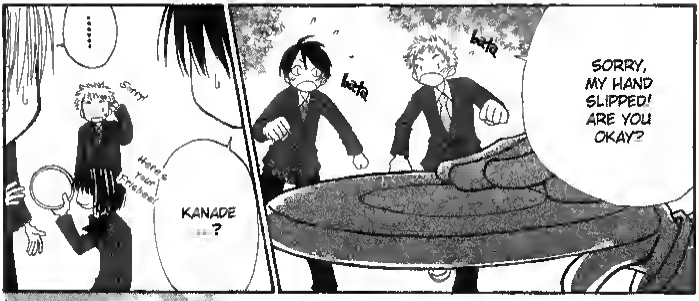
Part 3

kon
kon
NO PROBLEM!
mumble
mumble
HUH...?
sniff
sniff
OH, REALLY? IT SEEMS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF FIRE ACCIDENTS IN THIS AREA LATELY.
I SMELLED SOMETHING BURNT.
KANADE, HURRY UP! WE MUST GO TO THE CHEMISTRY ROOM!
?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

.....
REALLY?
WHAT?
WE CAN USE THAT TO ROAST SWEET POTATOES!
Oh then we'd better leave now
YEAH!
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!
I THINK THAT'S WHAT YOU SMELT. THE JANITOR IS BURNING LEAVES
HUH?
AH!
YEAH...
BAKED SWEET POTATOES,
AREN'T BAD EITHER!
KUN KUN
wakkishaka

OOOOHHHH! ♡
.....
WHAT?
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SO I REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO IT! ♡
BUT I...
WHY DON'T WE ALL DIG THEM UP NEXTTIME?
THERE ARE SWEET POTATOES IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN TOO.
BUT HE'D LIKE TO EAT SWEET POTATOES NEVERTHELESS...
Hey what's up with those expressions?
WITH HIS GARDENING
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO HELP AROU.
Watch out!
Ah!

SFx:SLAM
/10


SORRY, MY HAND SLIPPED! ARE YOU OKAY?
kshh
kshh
KANADE ...?
Here's your [chicken]
Sniff

YEAH?
WHAT?
NO — NOTHING
thump thump
OH, NO! IT'S THE FIRST BELL! LET'S HURRY UP AND EAT OKAY?
kun kun
OKAY...
HUH?
sniff
sniff

IS SOMEONE BURNING LEAVES AGAIN?
Fifth Period
World History Cancelled
IT CAN'T BE
I THINK I SMELL
sniff
SOMETHING BURNING
WHAT'S WRONG, KANADE?

Look at the house outside that fence! It's burning!
Over there!
Ah, it's true! Oh, no!
AH!

Huh?
piku
IS THERE A FIRE?
DASH
Eri, use the cell phone to call 911! Hurry!
oper
Kanade!
...wait!
gata

zawa
zawa
IS IT THAT SECOND YEAR, SIXTH CLASS* NEXT DOOR? WHY ARE THEY SO NOISY?
what's happening?
Is it a fire?
.....
Click!

Puff!
Huff!
Gulp

Blo
GR
AB
osh
SISHHH
Bloo
sh

Sakura's personal letter

<continued from pg 41>

But after I kept on trying it turned out pretty good! As a matter of fact it was so good that I'm not even afraid to say so myself. (I do this sometimes – suddenly shocking myself with my drawing while I was working) As for the colored pages... Um I'll try hard to improve! In this chapter there are many frames devoted to Kanade's movements/physical activities. I can't believe how good her reflexes are! (She runs really fast too...)

Oh yes my house also went on fire once. Even though it was a tiny one it sure caused quite a commotion (around the neighbourhood)! What happened was that the converter was struck by lightning

<TO BE CONTINUED>

THE FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED! THE FIREMEN STOPPED HOSING TOO
It's good that you guys thwarted this early
Yeah!
.....
ANYWAY, THANK GOODNESS THAT IT WAS ONLY A SMALL FIRE!
It's all thanks to us!
step
step
IT'S GETTING MORE AND MORE DANGEROUS NOWADAYS
Ouch! There's some child!
DID SOMEONE DO IT?
YEAH ...BUT HOW DID THE FIRE START?

KANADE, WHY ARE YOU ALL WET?
step
step
EXCUSE ME...
OH, MY!
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE STUDENTS WERE THE ONES WHO PUT OUT THE FIRE!
step
step
KANADE!

TAP

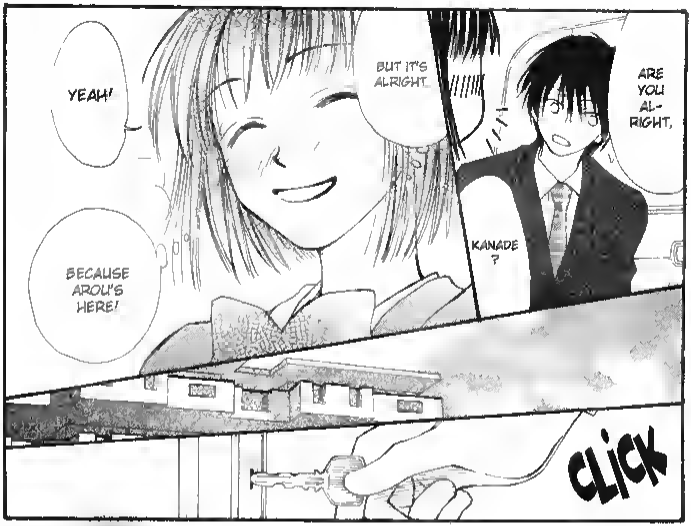
WRONG PERSON.
SORRY.
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU...
LET GO!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
Geez! Teen-agers these days...
.....
HUH?
step
step
step
?

WHY IS MY HEART BEATING SO FAST?
DOKI!
DOKI!
BUT EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT NOW.
DOKI!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DOKI!
HUH?
DOKI!
WHY IS IT ALL DARK?
AHH!
DOKI!
DOKI!
I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL.

KANADE,
YOU HAVE A FEVER.
hi
sst
HUH?
AH!
You have a really high fever!
Eeeeek! Kanade!
What?

SFx: LIPT
OH!
HEY, ERI!
UM...
CAN YOU RETURN THIS FOR ME PLEASE?
UM...

SURE...
I'M GETTING KANADE HOME
I'M LEAVING THE REST TO YOU!
HMM COME TO THINK OF IT, I STILL THINK THAT—
Kanade is usually so weak (compared to me) so how come she was able to carry such a heavy bucket of water?
KANADE WAS BEING KIND OF WEIRD—
Driver please turn right at the next traffic light
.....
IT WAS FIRST AFTER FINDING OUT THAT I HAVE A FEVER THAT I REALIZED I DIDN'T FEEL SO GOOD
DIVERY
DIVERY
IT'S JUST LIKE WHEN YOU FIRST SEE THE WOUND THAT YOU FEEL THE PAIN


ARE YOU AL-RIGHT, KANADE ?
BUT IT'S ALRIGHT.
YEAH!
BECAUSE AKIU'S HERE!
CLICK

Ah-choo!
IS NOBODY HOME?
ARE YOU COLD? YOU NEED TO CHANGE CLOTHES NOW
BECAUSE YOUR CLOTHES ARE ALL WET
IS THAT OKAY? CAN YOU HANDLE CHANGING CLOTHES BY YOURSELF?

WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
PIECE OF CAKE!
YEAH, IT'S FINE!

BEEP BEEP BEEP
38 5 DEGREES.
touch
YEAH...
gura
gura
YOUR TEMPER-ATURE IS STILL TOO HIGH.

.....
AH! SO COMFORT-ABLE...
BECAUSE YOU SWEATED A LOT,
YOU SHOULD DRINK MORE FLUIDS.
I'LL GO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY DRINKS IN THE FRIDGE.

WOOSH

HUH?
TE
YA
J-JUST NOW DID KANADE LIFT ME UP.
ALL BY HERSELF?

SHE'S ILL! SHE'S ILL!
SHE'S ILL! SHE'S ILL!
SHE'S ILL! SHE'S ILL!
drink
THUMP
THUMP
walk
walk
drink
YES?
AROU ?
CHUSU
HMMM..
STAY WITH ME.
STAY WITH ME,
FOREVER!

AM I NOT STAYING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW?
OKAY...

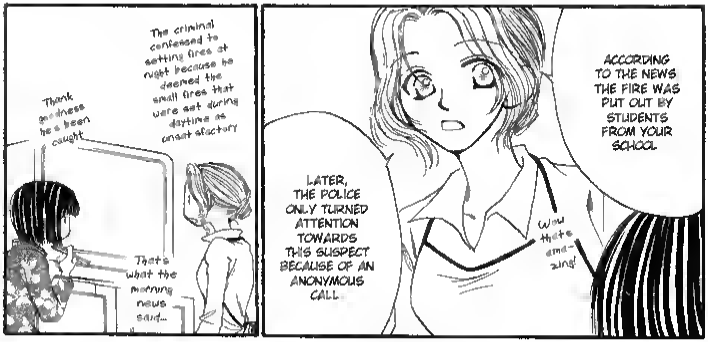
...OK ME TOO THEN ...
squirm
AROU, YOU TOO!
squirm
BE GOOD AND COVER YOURSELF !
squirm
Ah- Chan

HAHA HAHA!
HAHA!

AROU!
cuddle
AROU!
Snuggle
AAA
AROU!
AROU!
AROU!
AROU!
SAWA
SAWA
SAWA
AROU
AROU
ZZZ

blink
OH, MY!
OH, MY!
OH, MY!
OH, MY!
OH, MY!
Why don't you stay for dinner before you go?
yes~
ZZZZ

Kyun
Kyun
THE FEVER'S GONE!
HMM...
DID I REALLY HAVE A FEVER YESTER-DAY?
HUH? YOU FORGOT AGAIN?
YEAH EVERYTHING THAT HAP-PENED YESTERDAY IS ALL.
All I know is that I had a compress on.
KANADE, YOU ACT STRANGELY EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A FEVER.
You start talking like an old man and you become annoyingly strong-headed
NO, IT'S OKAY
DO YOU NEED TO CALL IN SICK TODAY?
NEXT UP, WE HAVE THE LATEST ON THE SERIAL ARSONIST
OH, SO HE'S THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN SETTING FIRES AROUND THE SCHOOL!
He's been arrested! That's wonderful!
MY, MY HE SET A FIRE YESTER-DAY TOO!
HE IS NOW ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH IMMEDIATE CRIMINAL OFFENCES BY THE TRAILING POLICE OFFICERS
IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SUSPECT, TANAKA (32), IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TWENTY CONSECUTIVE FIRE ACCIDENTS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS.


Thank goodness he's been caught
The criminal confessed to setting fires at night because he deemed the small fires that were set during daytime as unsatisfactory
That's what the morning news said...
ACCORDING TO THE NEWS, THE FIRE WAS PUT OUT BY STUDENTS FROM YOUR SCHOOL
Wow, that's amazing!
LATER, THE POLICE ONLY TURNED ATTENTION TOWARDS THIS SUSPECT BECAUSE OF AN ANONYMOUS CALL.

ERI!
THE PERSON WHO SET THE FIRE YESTERDAY WAS HIM!
DON'T PEOPLE SAY THAT WHEN A FIRE OCCURS THE ARSONIST WILL SURELY BE AT THE CRIME SCENE TOO?
DID YOU SEE THAT PERSON?
MORNING, KANADE!

I went looking for you after school but I couldn't find you
DID YOU LEAVE EARLY YESTERDAY?
YEAH! I HAD A FEVER YESTERDAY!
MORNING,
NAMIKI-SAN!
AROU?
HUH?
And full of energy too!
ALL BETTER
WHAT? ARE YOU BETTER NOW?

BUT, I HEARD FROM MY MOM THAT...
I'M FINE!
YES ARE YOU FEELING OKAY, KANADE?
OH!
YOU TOOK CARE OF ME YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?
SORRY FOR PASSING THE COLD TO YOU

OH!
AROU, DO YOU HAVE A COLD?

EVERY TIME I HAVE A FEVER, I WOULD FORGET THINGS. I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM YESTERDAY EITHER.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
YEAH!

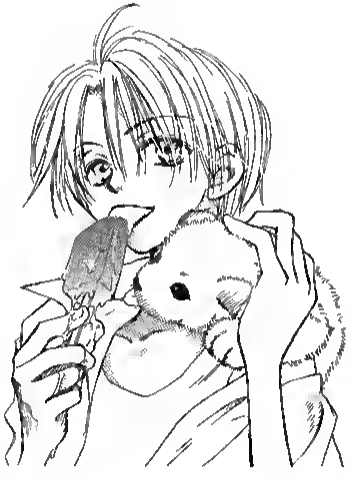
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID I DO SOMETHING?

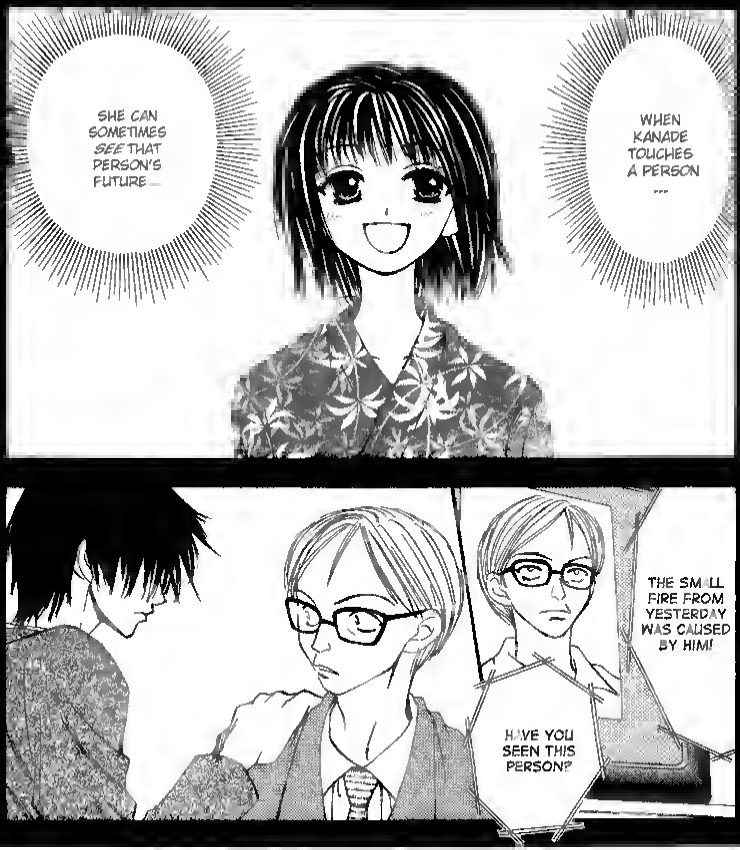
MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI CHAPTER 32 // END

めかくしのくに

目隠しの国

第33話





1/4 桜めぐる

その5

《つづき》

うちの周りは結構密集した住宅街で我が家よりも背の高い家(避雷針のある家も)も沢山ありました。

けれども、1階の手の届きそうな場所に雷が落ちる事もあるのですね。

雨がザーザー降き中、火を吹く変圧器にお風呂に溜めていた水をバケツでバシャバシャかけて火を消しました。

《つづく》

Wow!
You made so much food today!
THAT'S BECAUSE I HAD THE FLU DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS SO I COULDN'T MAKE ANY *BENTOS
LET'S EAT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM TODAY!
OKAY!
BUT AROU, ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT NOW?
YEP, I'M FINE
EH?
AROU!
.....
HURRY UP! ♡
CLANK
OKAY!

close
open
2-6

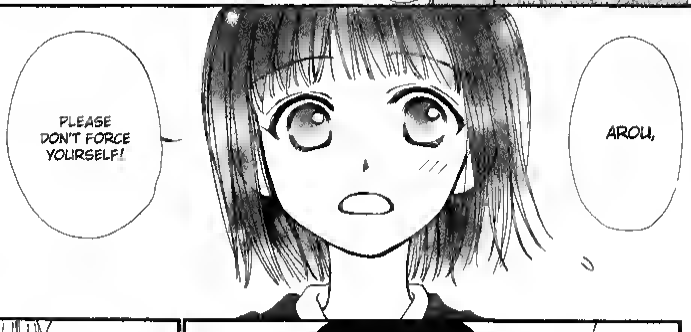
TAGUCHI
SHIFT
I heard that there are many things being stolen from the classrooms nowadays.
WHAT IS IT ERI-CHAN?
THIS
IS THIS YOURS?

AH, THANKS ERI-CHAN!
YOU'RE GREAT! YOU ACTUALLY KNEW IT WAS MINE!
THIS HAIR CLIP WAS BRAND NEW AND I DIDN'T EVEN USE IT YET... I WAS JUST FEELING DOWN BECAUSE OF IT!
THANK YOU!
SO... IT'S TRUE...
?
ERI-CHAN?
..HE REALLY KNOWS..
THIS TASTES SO GOOD! ♡

cough

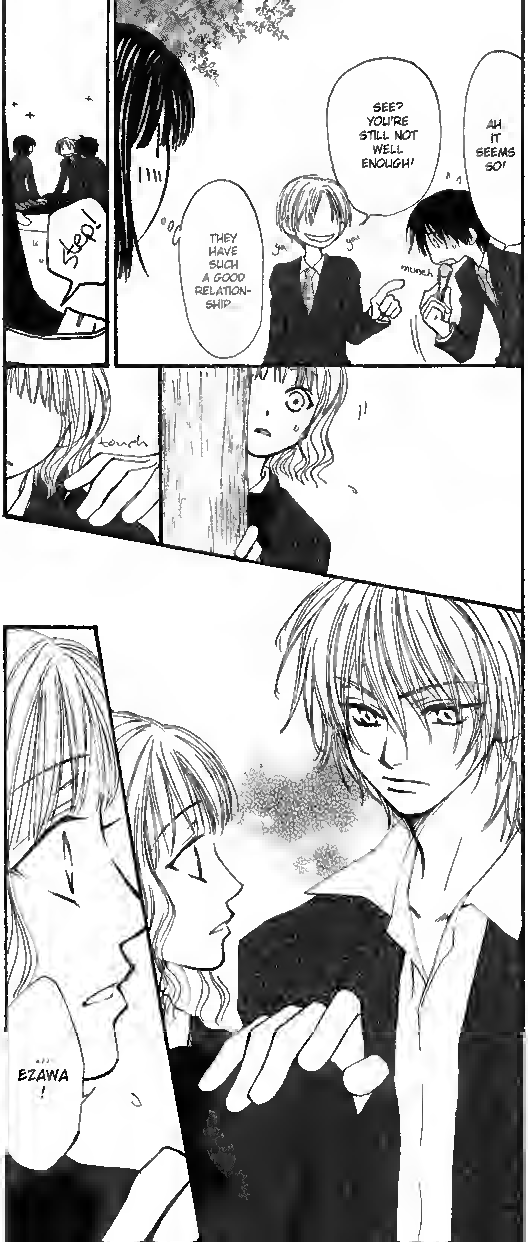
IT'S OKAY! IT'S JUST THAT MY BODY HASN'T FULLY RECOVERED
AROU ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?

Hmmm !
I HAVEN'T EATING THIS IN A LONG TIME!


PLEASE DON'T FORCE YOURSELF!
AROU,

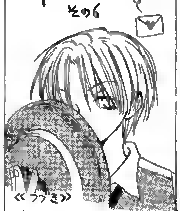
THIS DISH SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE OVER SEASONED
munch
munch
eh?

I'M NOT FORCING MYSELF!
...DON'T WORRY !



1/4 桜めーる

その6

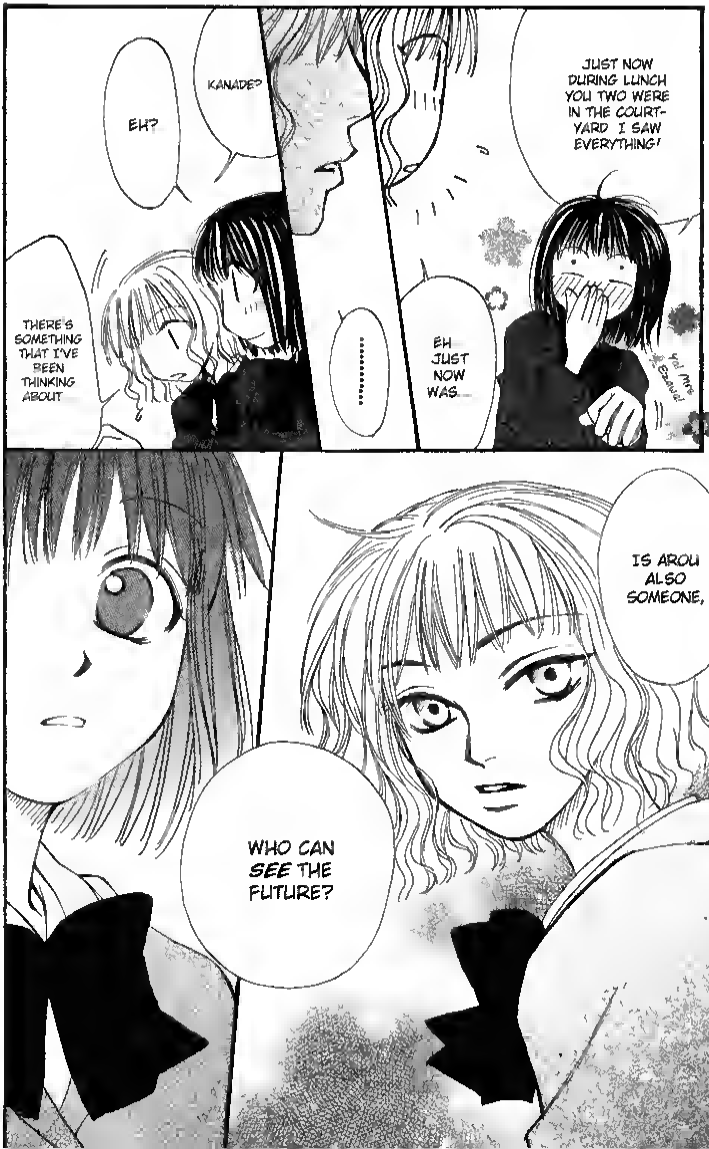


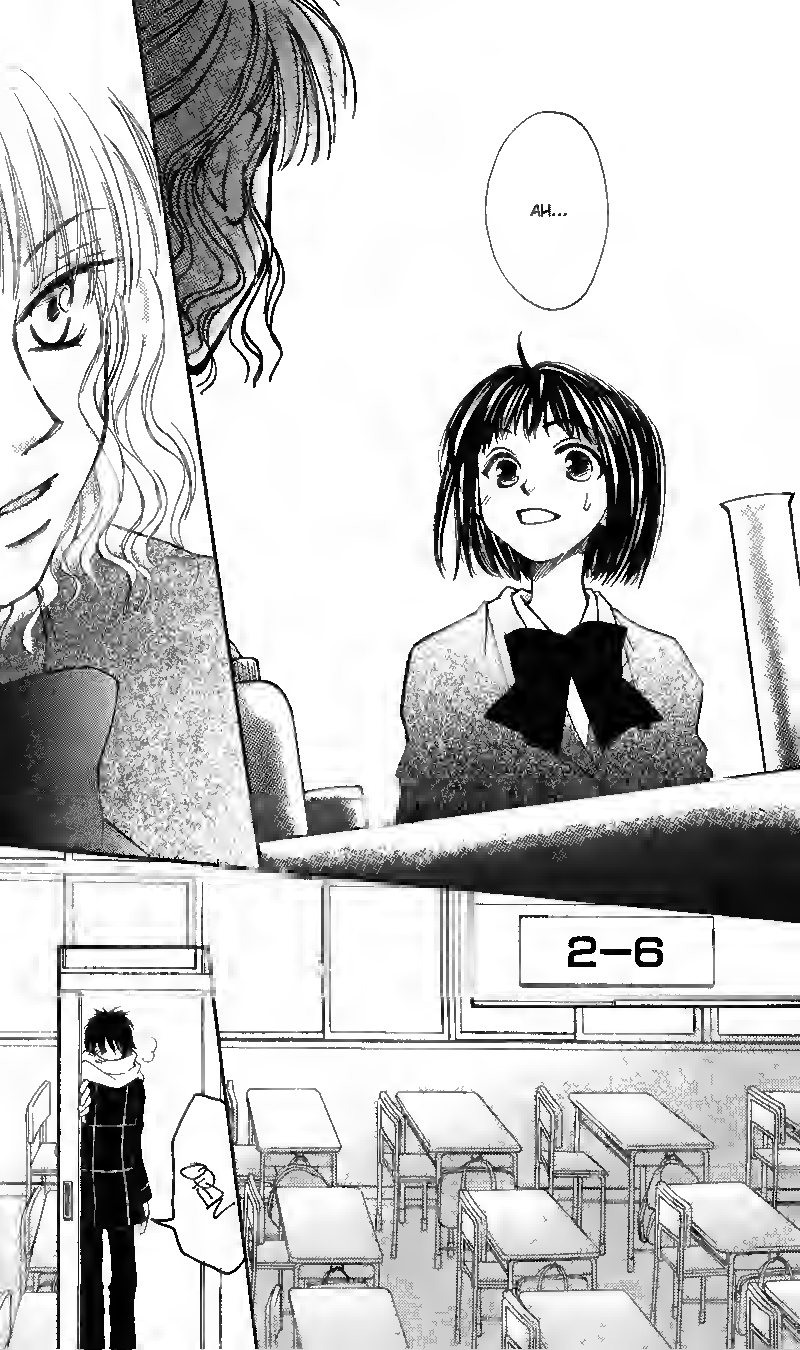
《フウミ》

幸い火はすぐ消えましたが御近所様が消防車を呼んでくれていて、消防士さんに怒られました。電気系統の消火は水では大変危険だそうです。大雨の中だったのでなおさらだそうです。電気火災は消火器で火を消すのが良いらしいです。みんなも気を付けよーねぬ。しかし雷が落ちた瞬間はもの凄かったなぁ…。凄すぎて耳が"音"を拾いきれませんでした？轟音だけど無音。しかし"音"はそこに満ち満ちているので、衝撃が凄まじかったのですよ。《つづく》

AH! ERI...
EZAWA...
APART FROM ME, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED,
TO LOOK AT OTHER GUYS!
AH, THEIR FEELINGS FOR ONE ANOTHER ARE STILL SO STRONG
But this is school
HOLD
I HAVE PRACTICE DURING 5TH PERIOD SO I'LL GOING NOW, OKAY?
SURE!
AH, I'M SO FULL!

Thanks Arou!
cough
REALLY! THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU DIDN'T FULLY RECOVER YET, RIGHT?
SHAKE
SHAKE
YE...H ...
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME NOW THEN? AFTER ALL WE'VE ALREADY EATEN
SO IT'S LIKE THAT
Go home!
Go home!
ERI, YOU GUYS ARE STILL THE SAME!
SO MUSHY!
EH!?


JUST NOW DURING LUNCH YOU TWO WERE IN THE COURT-YARD. I SAW EVERYTHING!
Yo! Miss Eavesdrop!
EH JUST NOW WAS...
.....
KANADE?
EH?
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT
IS AROU ALSO SOMEONE,
WHO CAN *SEE* THE FUTURE?


АН...
2-6
ОТКР

3
kara
kara
3
3
Kanade,
I've gone home first.
Arou
tosu
tosu
tosu
2-6
kanana

kopo
kopo
thump
thump
thump
thump
AH
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER. IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M SORRY KANADE
AH!
thump
WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
AH
BUT THAT'S AKOU'S
thump
IF IT'S ABOUT ME IT'S ALRIGHT
SIGH
thump
thump
I'VE BEEN THINKING SO MUCH ABOUT IT THAT I SPEAK WITHOUT EVEN THINKING IT OVER.
pon
pon

EH?
I WILL ASK HIM DIRECTLY!
GLO
MP
2-6
KANADE
mummur
mummur
mummur

Kanade,
I've gone home first.
Arou
SO AROU ACTUALLY
DIDN'T REALLY RECOVER YET
HOW STRANGE, MY WALLET IS MISSING!
MY MOBILE PHONE IS GONE TOO!
HUH?! AROU WENT HOME ALREADY?
YEAH, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S STILL GOT HIS FLU
hustle
hustle
STRANGE!
ARE YOU KIDDING?
OH NO! I LEFT MY WALLET IN MY BAG— I DIDN'T BRING IT WITH ME
It can't be stolen too, right?

SO MANY THINGS HAVE BEEN STOLEN LATELY!
JUST LAST WEEK, THE FIRST YEAR'S CLASS 8 WAS ALSO ROBBED!
WEREN'T THERE ANY WITNESSES?
WAH! IT HAS REALLY BEEN STOLEN!
WHO WAS THE LAST TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM?
NO, IT SHOULD RATHER BE,
Kanade,
I've gone home first
Arou
WHO CAME INTO OUR CLASSROOM WHEN WE CHANGED CLASSES FOR THE PERIOD?
Murmur
THIS IS BAD!
JUST NOW, SOMEONE SAW
Murmur

AROU
...
Kanako,
I've gone home first.
Arou
...COME INTO THE CLASS-ROOM ONCE...
chuchu
MORNING!
MORNING!
AROU!
MORNING!

HEY! IS YOUR FLU GONE?
YEAH, IT'S GONE.
HEY, YOU ARE EARLY TODAY.
Earlier than usual
THAT'S BECAUSE I HEARD THAT YOU USUALLY COME TO SCHOOL AT THIS HOUR
YEAH?
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
WHAT IS IT?
AROU,
CAN YOU SEE THE "FUTURE"?
.....

THERE ISN'T A WAY...
YEAH!
BUT IT'S THE "PAST" THAT I SEE
EH? REALLY?
THEN DO YOU ALSO SEE IT OCCASIONALLY?
NOPE
FOR ME TO COVER UP MY EYES

Kim Kon
HEY!
WHAT? YOUR FLU IS-GONE!?
.....
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?
AH THAT'S RIGHT THE THIRD YEARS ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT YOU REGARDING THE RECENT THIEVERIES
HUH— THERE HAS BEEN SOME THEFT?
YEAH SOMEONE SAW YOU ENTER KANADE'S CLASS JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED
YEAH THE TEACHER TOLD ME
EAT!
.....
BUT I DIDN'T ST...
OF COURSE,
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING!

KACHA
THE PROBLEM IS, HOW ARE THE OTHERS WILL REACT.
YOU HAVE ALREADY BEEN SUSPECTED!
.....
AS SOON AS I LEFT THE CLASSROOM THAT GUY HURRIED TO ENTER
...AH, THAT PERSON
rattle
OH,
HI AROU!
jasp
jasp

RAT TLE
marble
Where is Kanade?
She went to the restroom.
EVERYONE'S ACTING THE SAME AS USUAL
I THINK THAT
.....
OH NO, MY WALLET IS MISSING!
AH! MY MOBILE PHONE IS GONE TOO!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
AH, THIS IS...
...WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 2ND YEAR'S CLASS 6 AFTER I LEFT IT YESTERDAY!
THIS IS BAD!
huff
huff

AROU ENTERING THIS CLASS-ROOM!
JUST NOW... SOMEONE SAW...
HUH!
BUT THE THIEF CAN'T BE AROU!

YEAH, IT CAN'T BE AROU.
I DON'T THINK IT'S HIM!
AROU CAME IN, JUST TO LEAVE ME A NOTE TO SAY HE WENT HOME FIRST!
OH, I SEE.
THAT SHOULD BE IT...
DON'T WORRY, KANADE.
NO ONE IS SUSPECTING AROU!
HE IS A GOOD PERSON!
...ROU ...
AROU !

...
AH...
KANADE
I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE!
I'LL RIGHT BE BACK!

DASH
DASH
!!!
tap
tapa
KANADE?
Arou?

3-7
PERHAPS ALL THE OTHER THEFTS WERE ALL HIS DOING...
I WAS THINKING...
OF COURSE IT'S THE 2ND YEAR STUDENT, NAITOU A...
Uuu!
WHO IS "THAT GUY"?
SOME SAY STEALING CAN BE ADDICTIVE!
THAT GUY IS PROBABLY ONE
BECAUSE THE METHOD USED WAS THE SAME!
Using the changing of lessons between periods.

rustle
W-What?
PLEASE
ROU

What are you talking about!?
What...!
RETURN THE ITEMS YOU STOLE
FROM THE 2ND YEAR'S CLASS 6, OKAY?
Don't sprout nonsense!
PLEASE...

CALM DOWN!
WHY
W...
WHY

Why do you ...
...know about such things?
You can't possibly know them...
DO YOU WANT ME TO CONTINUE LISTING WHAT ELSE YOU DID?
PUSH
!!
N-No!
I ONLY WANT CLEAR THIS UP PEACEFULLY
What's going on?
No idea
SO PLEASE COOPERATE WITH ME

.....
I will return all the stolen items and apologize to them!
OKAY?
NOD
NOD
From now on I won't steal again.
THAT'S GOOD!
What's wrong?
SO HE WAS THE REAL THIEF...

THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH, HE PROMISED TO RETURN WHAT HE'D STOLEN!
OH!
.....
.....
ERI!
IT'S EZAWA!
THEN I'LL BE GOING FIRST!
HUG
...ERI, WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M ALL RIGHT.
NOTHING.
.....

rub
rub

YUP IT'S COMFORT-ABLE!
REALLY ?
NOPE
DOES IT HURT?

THEN LET'S DO IT ONE MORE TIME...
rub
rub
rub
sesse
sesse
COMFORT-ABLE?
YEAH?
AROU!
PLEASE DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TOO MUCH!
WHEN YOU ARE IN PAIN, I WILL ALSO GET SAD !

BECAUSE ALL YOUR FEELINGS ...
ARE KNOWN TO ME!
.....

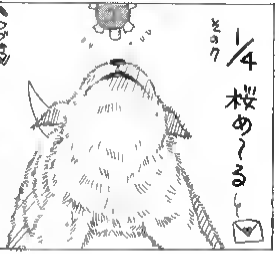
OKAY!
THEN,
LET US ..
GO AND EAT!

めかくしのくに

目隠しの国

第34話

1/4 桜め〜るしつ



《つづき》
んでもって、その瞬間はやっぱり極限状態なので、一瞬が長〜く感じました。まさにコマ送り。
"わー、音がしない！"、てのと"結構カいっぱい叫んでるのに自分の叫び声まで掻き消えてるなぁ"、てのと"あ、でも外からの声は聞こえないけど肉体から直接響く声は少しは聞こえるなぁ、どーなってんだっすげー"、などとぼんやりと考えられるほど長かったです。今♡

Uncle Sou's currently living with us.
This is my uncle Sou.
DAD WENT ON A BUSINESS TRIP TODAY.
AH, RIGHT, KUMAGOROU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A BUSINESS TRIP.
He's my mom's older brother.
UNCLE SOU IF YOU WANT TO EAT, THEN EAT THE ONE ON THE PLATE
I DID PUT SOME ON A DISH!
POUT
HMMM,
IT TASTES GOOD!
AH, MORNING!
MIX MIX
MORNING!
GRIN
UNCLE SOU!
SMELLS GREAT!

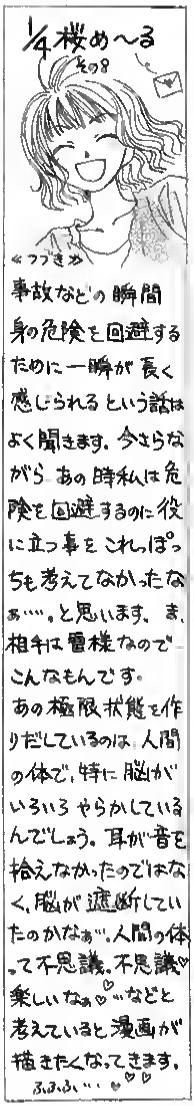
I'M ...
BEING ABLE TO EAT SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD. I FEEL SO LUCKY!
But then again I'm always lucky
SO GLAD ...!
ICHI
REALLY ?
ICHI
?
rub
rub
YEAH
KANADE!
MORNING
MORN-ING!
MORN-ING!

GOOD MORNING,
ERI!
AH,
YOU ARE VERY EARLY TODAY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS EARLY!
GREEN LIGHT!
walk
change
GR
AB
WAAH!
VROOM
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, KANADE?
What the hell is with that car? There are people walking!
YEAH
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

GOOD MORNING KANADE!
AROU!
REALLY?
THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF ACCI-DENTS AROUND HERE
YEP.
SO BE CAREFUL!
OKAY!
OLEYON
THANKS! YOU REALLY SAVED ME.
Good morning Eri!
Good morning!
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL! CARS TEND TO GO REALLY FAST AT THIS INTERSECTION

KANADE!
SORRY, BUT SINCE EZAWA-KUN IS ABSENT TODAY, I'M GOING TO PAY HIM A VISIT.
I want to see Ezawa-kun before he goes to work.
CAN YOU DO MY SHARE OF THE CLEANING?
SURE!
KYAAH!
THANK YOU!
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU NEXT TIME!
Thanks again!

change
glance
HM!
glance
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL
CARS TEND TO GO REALLY FAST AT THIS INTER-SECTION
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL

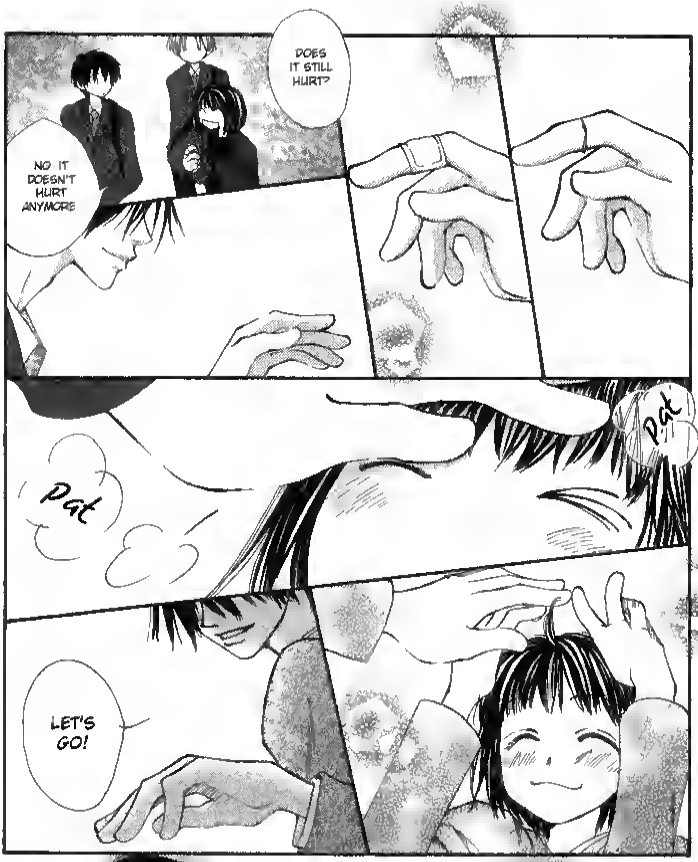

1/4 桜めぐる
その8
«つづき»
事故などの瞬間
身の危険を回避するために一瞬が長く感じられるという話はよく聞きます。今さらながら あの時私は危険を回避するのに役に立つ事を これっぽっちも考えてなかったなぁ……。と思います。ま、相手は雪様なので こんなもんです。
あの極限状態を作りだしているのは、人間の体で、特に脳がいろいろやらかしているんでしょう。耳が音を拾えなかったのではなく、脳が遮断していたのかなぁ"。人間の体って不思議。不思議♡楽しいなぁ♡"などと考えていると漫画が描きたくなってきます。
ふふふ……♡

step
THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ACCIDENTS AROUND HERE.

JUST NOW I REMEMBERED,
THAT AROU IS ABLE TO SEE THE PAST OF THIS INTER-SECTION...
THAT'S WHY ...
SQWEE

SKREECH

SHATTER
AH, KANADE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WAAH! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
OUCH!
AH!
Ah!


DOES IT STILL HURT?
NO IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE
Pat
Pat
LET'S GO!

BEEP BEEP
I SAW IT FROM OVER THERE WITH MY OWN EYES!
JUST NOW,
.....
...HAS THERE JUST BEEN A CAR ACCIDENT?
IT SENT A PEDESTRIAN FLYING,
AND THE CAR WENT CRASHING TO THE SIDEWALK
PUSH
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS RED LIGHT THAT CAR STILL DROVE PAST THE INTERSECTION
IT WAS SUCH A SCARY CAR ACCIDENT !
AH... I'M SORRY!

KANADE,
OH NO! ERI SHE...
THANKS FOR COMING TO VISIT-ERI
open
ERI YOUR FRIENDS HAVE COME TO SEE YOU!

Eri
!
SLAM
KANADE?
.....
GYES
howa
howa
howa
howa
ERI---!

IT PASSED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT THE CAR DIDN'T HIT ME...
AHAHA, I'M REALLY OKAY!
touch
touch
ERI, ARE YOU INJURED? DOES IT HURT?
EVEN THOUGH YOUR MOM SAID THAT YOU ARE OKAY...
THAT WAS CLOSE...
IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE!
Oh, wow
EVEN THOUGH IT HAPPENED SO QUICKLY, IT FELT LIKE A LIFETIME!
SO

YEAH, THANK YOU KANADE
There are treats too.
ERI, DO YOU NEED ME TO GET YOU A DRINK?
Take it easy now
Thank you!

DON'T TOUCH ME,
AROU!
YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH ME!

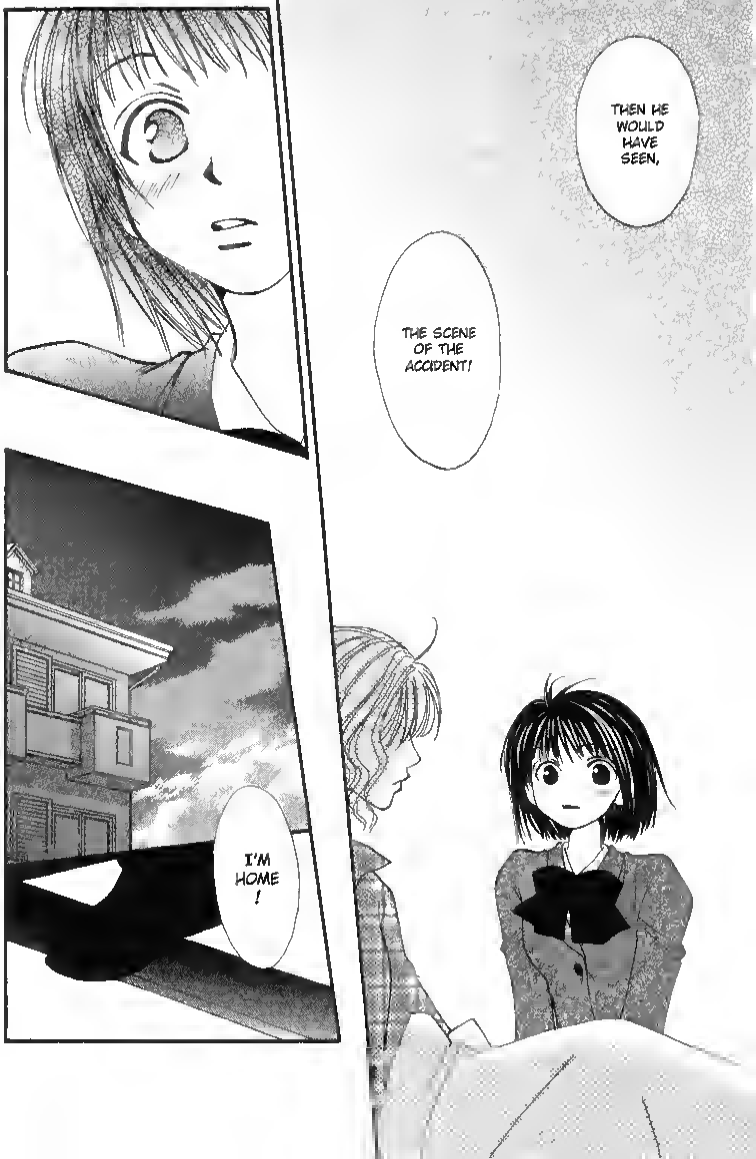
OKAY,
I'VE GOT IT!

I'LL GO!
IT'S OKAY, KANADE
Arou!
I'M SORRY, I WILL BE LEAVING NOW.
...HEY!
HEY! AROU!

SMACK
YOU NEED TO ANSWER ME!
I WAS CALLING YOU
OK!
brush
brush
DON'T WORRY!
YEAH, I KNOW
I'M OKAY!
ERI'S STILL A LITTLE SHOCKED FROM THE ACCIDENT, SO SHE'S NOT BEING HER USUAL SELF.
BESIDES
brush

...STUPID!
THINGS LIKE THAT ...
I'M ALREADY USED TO THEM.
HUG
HUG
THAT HURTS ...
... KANADE,

ERI,
IF I CAN TOUCH YOU,
WHY CAN'T AROU?
...KANADE, IT'S BECAUSE AROU...
DRU
DRU
DRU
.....
.....
.....
...HE CAN SEE THE "PAST"!
...HE CAN'T
IF HE TOUCHED ME...


THEN HE WOULD HAVE SEEN,
THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT!
I'M HOME!

That's right
THE CAKE YOU MADE THIS MORNING IS VERY DELICIOUS!
UNCLE SOU, YOU ARE WORKING?
YEP!

OH! AROU, YOU'RE BACK.

Pat
Rub
Rub
Rub

THAT'S GREAT
.....

WHEN I SAW ERI'S SAD EXPRESSION,

I WANTED TO TOUCH HER, AND MAKE HER FEEL BETTER...

I REALLY WISH I COULD DO THIS FOR MY FRIENDS...
BUT TODAY, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'M ABLE TO
YOU WANT TO TOUCH OTHERS, BUT YOU'RE TURNED DOWN?

THANK YOU, UNCLE SOU. I'M ALRIGHT NOW!
THAT FRIEND WASN'T FEELING WELL TODAY...
and I didn't choose the right opportunity...
REALLY!
YEAH!
YOU ARE SO NAIVE, AROU
HAHAHA,
DON'T WORRY!
SHE'S STILL A LITTLE SHOCKED FROM THE ACCIDENT SO SHE'S NOT BEING HER USUAL SELF
IT WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN FOREVER
THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN ONCE.

WHEN THEY LEARN OF YOUR POWER,
EVEN IF YOU ARE GOOD FRIENDS,
AND UNDER-STAND YOUR SITUATION.
THEY WILL DEFINITELY START TO BE AFRAID OF YOU.
BECAUSE KANADE WAS UNDER-STANDING,
YOU LOWERED YOUR GUARD, THINKING IT WAS NO LONGER A BIG DEAL?

OR FOR OTHERS TO GET HURT...
IF YOU DON'T WANT OTHERS TO HURT YOU.
THEN JUST DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW ABOUT YOUR POWER.
SHOCK...
LOOK!

THE WAY I LIVE LIFE...
ISN'T IT CARE-FREE?
WHAT UNFOLDED BEFORE ME
WAS A IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS THAT MADE ME ANXIOUS
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I BEGAN TO SEE,

I COULDN'T SEE UNCLE SOU'S "PAST"!

ERI, YOU DIDN'T WANT AROU
TO SEE THE CAR ACCIDENT?
.....
EVEN THOUGH I'M SAFE AND SOUND
GRIP
I STILL FELT A HUGE IMPACT
IF AROU SAW THAT SCENE,
HE WOULD PROBABLY FEEL BAD ABOUT IT
I'M AFRAID WHEN HE TOUCHES ME,
THAT THE INVISIBLE WOUND IN MY HEART,
WILL LEAVE A MARK ON HIM!

CLENCH
.....
EVEN IF IT'S LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF HE CAN SEE THE UNHAPPY MEMORIES,
AROW STILL WANTS TO TOUCH OTHERS!

BECAUSE BEING ABLE TO TOUCH,
IS AN EVEN MORE JOYFUL THING!
.....

...IS THAT SO?
YES!
...THAT MEANS I DID SOMETHING UNFORGIVABLE TO AROU!
ERI...
NO!
YEAH!
BUT...
YOU ALSO LIKE AROU!
...BUT THE PERSON I LIKE IS EZAWA-KUN!

YEAH!

I KNOW !

めかくしのくに

目隠しの国

第35話

When I'm working on my manga, I'm often riding the same emotional roller coaster as my characters in this recent story development. Arou is increasingly being compelled to accelerate his pace. thus as the creator, I feel the strain too. I believe readers will feel so too..?

Wah!_ Sorry!

1/4 Sakura's Personal Letter

Part9

I'LL BE GOING HOME FIRST THEN...
NAMIKI-SAN! WHAT ABOUT AROU?
OH!
YOU GUYS CONTINUE! CONTINUE!

HE WENT BACK!
.....
DO YOU FEEL BETTER?
YEAH.

I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING AT ALL.
IT'S AS THOUGH I'M 'BLIND-FOLDED',
NO, I DON'T THINK SO
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELT THIS WAY... IT'S UNBE-LIEVABLE!
YOU AND I ...
YOU CAN'T SEE YOUR OWN PAST, RIGHT?
WHEN YOU HUG YOURSELF,

ARE THE SAME KIND OF PEOPLE!
HUH?
THUS, IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME TO POSSESS A POWER AS STRONG AS YOURS.

SO, AROU! WHAT MUST I DO,
IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE PAST WITHOUT ANY RESTRIC-TIONS?

WE ENDED UP HERE BASED ON THE RECORDS

DON'T TOUCH ME!
I'M SORRY, ERI I'LL BE OFF NOW!
KANADE, I'M GOING WITH YOU!
DON'T WORRY! ERI, YOU SHOULD REST!
I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL TOMORROW!
YUP.
SO THIS IS AROU'S HOME?
I MUST FIND HIM QUICKLY
AROU MUST BE FEELING TERRIBLE NOW
ANYBODY HOME?
Knock Knock
AND CLEAR UP THE MISUNDERSTANDING IMMEDIATELY!

Silence

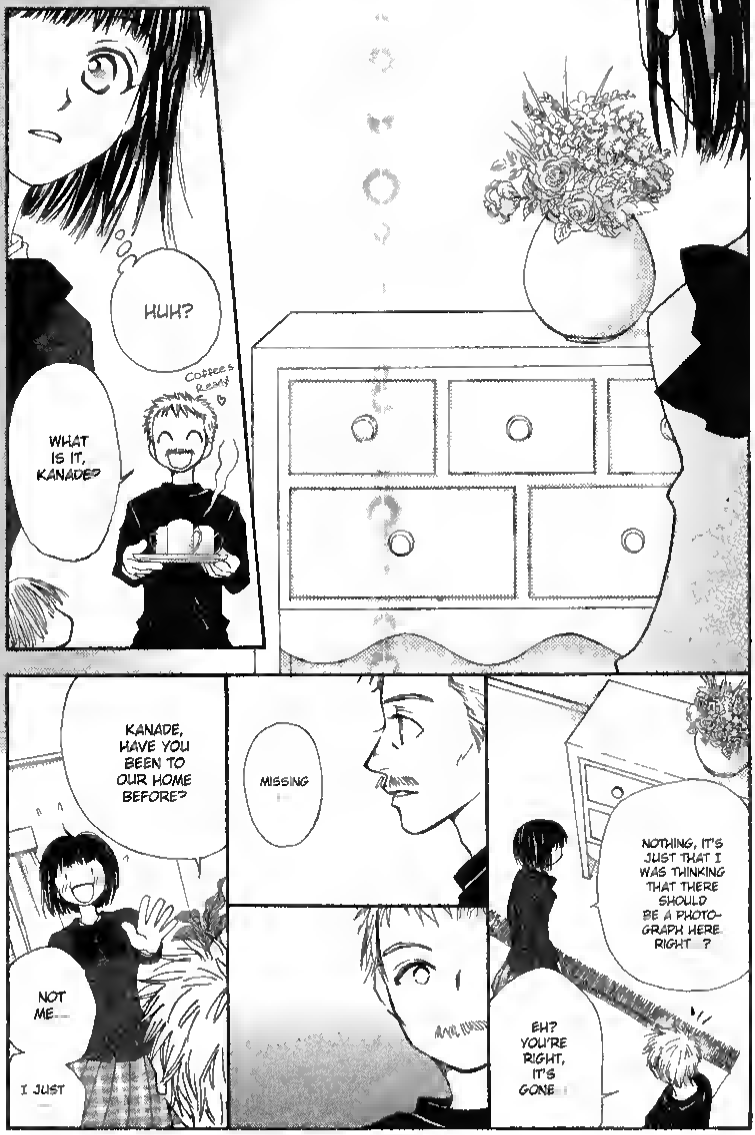
1/4 Sakura's Personal Letter Part10

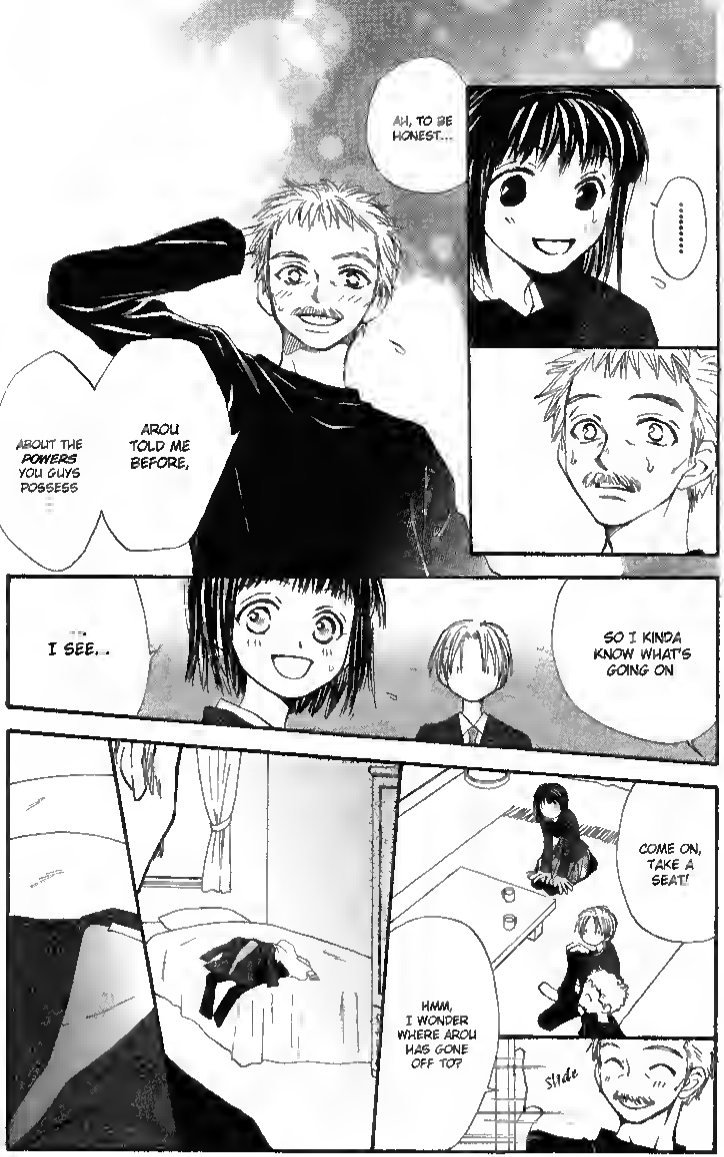
I hope for Arou Kanade and Namiki to always be happy! If I could I would hope for every character here to achieve their desired happiness! Yeah! I'll work extra hard! Even though this is a fictional story it's still as if the characters are right beside us in real life! It may be a tad late to say this but it's so noble to have kids... I respect all mothers in the world! I've drawn a green tortoise recently and logically he shouldn't be moving around a lot. But he seems to be always crawling on the floor in Namiki's home. (Other than that readers can rest assured that he's resting in the tank most of the time.) Well, it's about time that I quit rambling here!

Bye!
Sakura

YOU GUYS
ARE FRIENDS OF AROU'S?
I'M AROU'S FATHER, NICE TO MEET YOU!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET, HOW DO YOU DO?
AH... YOU GUYS MUST BE...
KANADE AND NAMIKI, RIGHT?
Yes... Yes! I'm so sorry, I should have...
DON'T JUST STAND THERE. COME IN AND HAVE A SEAT!

I'LL MAKE SOME COFFEE FIRST...
I'M SORRY, IT'S A BIT MESSY BECAUSE ONLY MEN LIVE HERE
I THINK I SAW THIS ROOM TOO
AH THAT'S RIGHT WHEN I LAST SAW AROU'S FUTURE


HUH?
COFFEE'S READY
WHAT IS IT, KANADE?
KANADE, HAVE YOU BEEN TO OUR HOME BEFORE?
NOT ME...
I JUST...
MISSING
AHH...
NOTHING, IT'S JUST THAT I WAS THINKING THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PHOTOGRAPH HERE RIGHT...?
EH? YOU'RE RIGHT, IT'S GONE...


AH, TO BE HONEST...
.....
AROU TOLD ME BEFORE,
ABOUT THE POWERS YOU GUYS POSSESS
I SEE...
SO I KINDA KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
COME ON, TAKE A SEAT!
HMM, I WONDER WHERE AROU HAS GONE OFF TO?
slide

!!!!!!
SOU'S LUGGAGE WAS ORIGINALLY IN AROU'S ROOM BUT WHERE IS IT NOW?
COULD IT BE THAT HE CAME BACK WHILE I WAS OUT ON AN ERRAND?
HUH? AROU CAME BACK BEFORE AND WENT OUT AGAIN?
Bata Bata
?
Bata Bata
IT'S FORTUNATE THAT I ASKED FOR HIS PHONE NUMBER BEFORE...
Ah, it's this piece of paper!
HAS SOU TAKEN SANAE'S PICTURE AS WELL?
We only have that picture at home.

WHAT IS THIS?
.....
THIS AREA CODE ...
COULD IT BE THAT PLACE..?
UNCLE SOU!
HUH?
I ALSO DON'T KNOW.

I ASLO DON'T KNOW WHY,
I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE THE PAST WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTIONS EVER SINCE MOM'S DEATH
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED BACK THEN VERY WELL...
IT DOESN'T MATTER I'M HAPPY ENOUGH THAT YOU WERE WILLING TO COME WITH ME
I HAVE WANTED TO RETURN HOME TO SORT OUT MY LUGGAGE FOR A WHILE.
IF YOUR DAD WAS HERE, HE WOULD HAVE FORBIDDEN YOU TO COME WITH ME
Rito
YOU STILL NEED TO ATTEND SCHOOL TOMORROW, RIGHT?
Take a nap if you're tired.
IT'S FINE
YEAH?
UNCLE SOU!
HOW MUCH OF THE PAST CAN YOU SEE?

IT SEEMS LIKE
YEAH, IT'S VERY CONVENIENT!
A GOOD MIDDLE GROUND
WHEN IT COMES TO WORK
I CAN SEE THE RECENT PAST OF PEOPLE BY TOUCHING THEM.
CURRENTLY
Around 2-3 days
OR NAMIKI WHO NEEDS TO TRY HARD IN ORDER TO SEE.
IT'S UNLIKE KANADE WHO SEES WITHOUT WARNING,
I'M A DETECTIVE♡
WORK?
I'M A GREEDY PERSON.
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, HOWEVER
BUT SINCE IT'S ONLY TO THAT EXTENT, THERE SHOULD BE VERY LITTLE DISRUPTION IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, RIGHT?

Sorry! Kanade, Namiki!
I have some urgent business to attend to!
Arou might be back really late,
You guys better go home first...
Stretch
UM
UNCLE ...
AROU IS THERE,
RIGHT NOW
HE IS !
...BUT I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT HE'S THERE
DOES UNCLE WHERE AROU...
...HAS GONE TO...?

YOU
.....
UNCLE!
Uncle! let us go with you!
Please bring us along!
Screech
BECAUSE OF AROU'S SPECIAL POWERS
I ALREADY TOLD HIM NOT TO GO NEAR THAT PLACE BUT TO THINK THAT NOW HE...
RumbleRumbleRumble
THE PLACE SOU IS HEADING TO IS WHERE WE LIVED BEFORE
WE USED TO MOVE AROUND A LOT IN THE PAST
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT PLACE...?

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE RIGHT?
SO WHEN WE ARRIVED, I ALMOST COULDN'T RECOGNIZE THE PLACE
THE MEMORIES OF THAT TIME HAVE ALREADY BECOME BLURY
Screech
WE LIVED IN THAT PLACE FOR LESS THAN A MONTH
IN REALITY
AROU'S MOM...
DIED IN THAT PLACE!

LET'S GO IN!
COME ON!
Shock
?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME?
GRAB

ドクーン
SFx Thump

MOM!
MOM, LISTEN TO ME! TAKEO FOUND OUT ABOUT MY POWER TODAY
AND THAT GUY DIDN'T MIND IT AT ALL!
HE'S NOT AFRAID OF ME!
REALLY ?

THAT'S GREAT!
THIS IS THE LAST PLACE WHERE SANAE LIVED IN.

THE DAY OF SANAE'S DEATH...
IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT DAY,
THEN YOU CAN TAKE A LOOK NOW!
YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING REGARDING THAT 'PAST', RIGHT?
IF YOU SEE, THEN EVEN IF YOU'RE UNWILLING,
Brush
YOU WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER, RIGHT?
Thump

HELLO, SORRY FOR DISTURBING, I'M AROU'S MUM.
DON'T MENTION IT. I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING TAKEO FOR MAKING FRIENDS WITH AROU
EXCUSE ME, IS AROU CAUSING ANY TROUBLE AT YOUR PLACE?
I SEE, IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE COMING TO FETCH HIM NOW.
Thump
Step

...
NO
...
THIS IS...?
YOU CAN'T!
MOM YOU CAN'T GO!
IT'S THAT DAY!
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
I BEG YOU...!
IT'S GOING TO RAIN SOON!

...
DON'T
GO!
MOTHER
!!

Strange... That day ?
Why did I have this over-powering urge to stop Mum from going out?
IF IT WASN'T...
Raining ?
Danger ?
HAH
.....
.....
That day?

IF IT
WASN'T
FOR
YOU...

I'm getting dizzy...
Have to remember it quickly!
Mom wouldn't have died?
If it wasn't for me.
Drip
Drip
I...

COLLAPSE
ERI DOESN'T HATE YOU AT ALL!
AROU!
ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME MISUNDER-STANDINGS JUST NOW BUT ERI DOESN'T HATE YOU
AH, AH! INSTEAD ERI, SHE...
ACTUALLY ..
AROU !

ACTUALLY, SHE...
REALLY LIKES YOU YOU A LOT!

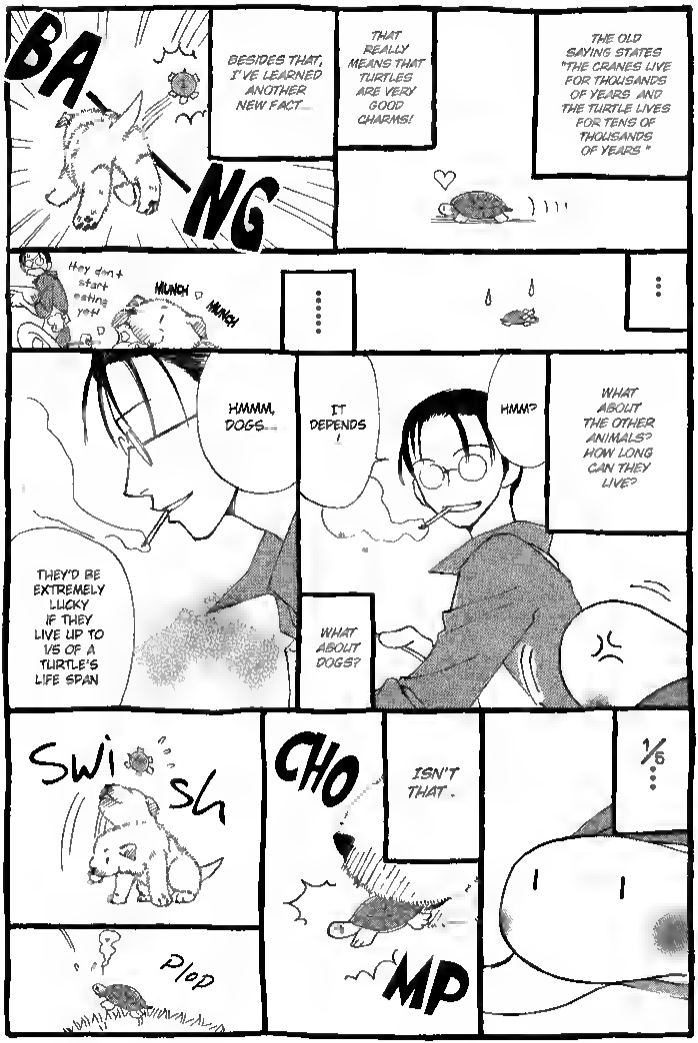
SOU!
EH? KUMAGORO, WEREN'T YOU GONE ON A BUSINESS TRIP?"
IT GOT POSTPONED BECAUSE THE INTERVIEWEE GOT SICK!
YOU KNOW OF AROU'S POWERS AND THAT COMING HERE HE'D SEE THAT PAINFUL PAST!
I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU, WHAT IN THE WORLD YOU WERE THINKING?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU ACTING THIS WAY THAT MAKES AROU WANT TO SEE THE PAST EVEN MORE

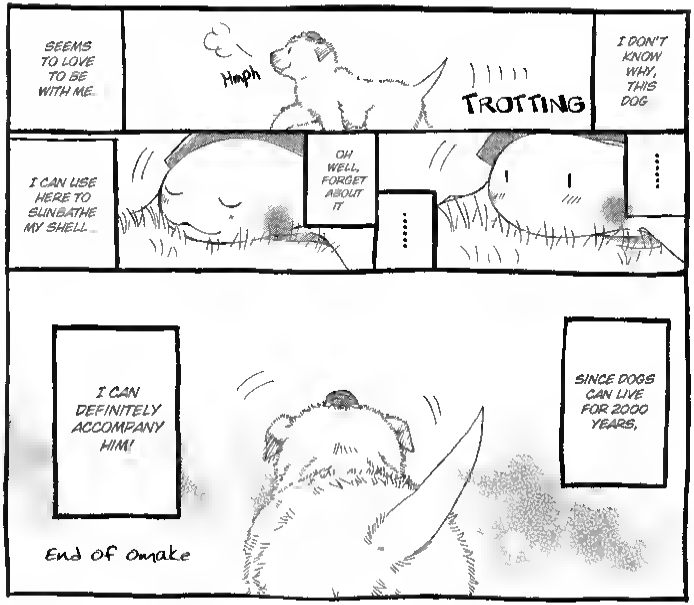
"If it wasn't for me..."
IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
Endlessly !
Those words keep surfacing in my mind.
Even so, I still...
Even so...

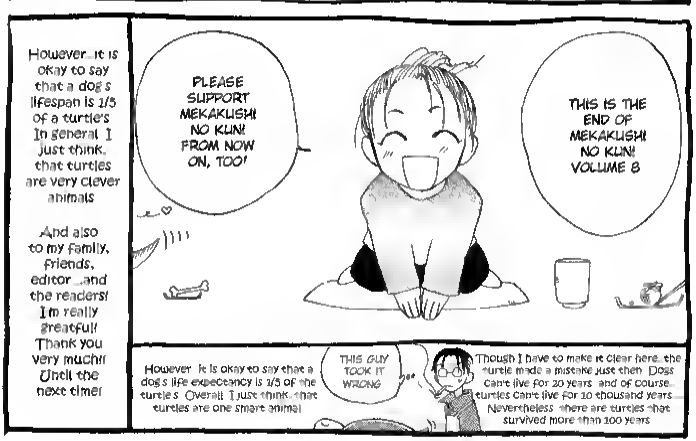
...can't stop the hope in my heart!

Sakura's Private Letters
A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE READERS OF MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI VOL 8!
HI EVERY-ONE, I AM TSUKUBA SAKURA.
LET'S FIRST TAKE A LOOK AT THE OMAKE FROM CHAPTER 31!
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S INTRODUCE THE CHARACTERS THAT APPEARED THIS TIME!
Although I have to say it every time but it's true that I've never thought Mekakushi no Kuni can last this long! This is all thanks to all the supportive readers! Thank you so much
IT IS SUCH A MEANINGFUL ADAGE!
"FORTUNE AND MIS-FORTUNE ARE LIKE HEMP ROPE, THEY COME IN TURNS."
I'VE RECENTLY LEARNED A SAYING:

SO DON'T FEEL DOWN WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER A NEGATIVE SITUATION.
BECAUSE VERY SOON SOMETHING GOOD HAS TO HAPPEN.
"FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE" MEANS GOOD AND BAD THINGS
ALL THE GOOD THINGS AND THE BAD THINGS ARE BOUND TOGETHER LIKE A HEMP ROPE GOOD OR BAD, WITHOUT ONE, THERE IS NO OTHER.
LIFE...
what's that?
WHAT ABOUT TURTLES?
EH? TURTLES?
IT'S EVEN BETTER FOR THE TURTLES!
CRANES LIVE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND IT'S TENS OF THOUSAND OF YEARS FOR TURTLES!
TURTLES CAN LIVE FOR A LONG TIME
THEY'RE A SYMBOL OF LUCK!


BA
NG
BESIDES THAT, I'VE LEARNED ANOTHER NEW FACT...
THAT REALLY MEANS THAT TURTLES ARE VERY GOOD CHARMS!
THE OLD SAYING STATES "THE CRANES LIVE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS AND THE TURTLE LIVES FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS."
Hey don't start eating yet!
MUNCH
MUNCH
HMMM, DOGS...
IT DEPENDS
HMM?
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ANIMALS? HOW LONG CAN THEY LIVE?
THEY'D BE EXTREMELY LUCKY IF THEY LIVE UP TO 1/5 OF A TURTLE'S LIFE SPAN
WHAT ABOUT DOGS?
SWI
SH
PLOP
CHO
MP
ISN'T THAT.
1/6


SEEMS TO LOVE TO BE WITH ME.
Hmph
TROTTING
I DON'T KNOW WHY, THIS DOG
I CAN LIE HERE TO SUNBATHE MY SHELL...
OH WELL, FORGET ABOUT IT
I CAN DEFINITELY ACCOMPANY HIM!
SINCE DOGS CAN LIVE FOR 2000 YEARS,
End of Omake


However...it is okay to say that a dog's lifespan is 1/5 of a turtle's. In general, I just think, that turtles are very clever animals.
And also to my family, friends, editor ...and the readers! I'm really greatful! Thank you very much! Until the next time!
PLEASE SUPPORT MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI FROM NOW ON, TOO!
THIS IS THE END OF MEKAKUSHI NO KUNI VOLUME 8
However, it is okay to say that a dog's life expectancy is 1/5 of the turtle's. Overall, I just think, that turtles are one smart animal.
THIS GUY TOOK IT WRONG
Though I have to make it clear here...the turtle made a mistake just then. Dogs can't live for 20 years, and of course... turtles can't live for 10 thousand years... Nevertheless, there are turtles that survived more than 100 years.